

What is needed to obtain a Georgia title and/or license plate for an abandoned motor vehicle?

Important: This state's abandoned motor vehicle laws require an abandoned motor vehicle to be sold at a public sale. See the definition of a public sale* below.

[Click here](#) to view a chart showing the Abandoned Motor Vehicle Process.

- A Georgia title will not be issued for an abandoned vehicle when the vehicle does not require a Georgia title, 1963-1985 year models, etc.
- [Click here](#) to view a list of vehicles that do and do not require a Georgia title.
- A Georgia title cannot be obtained for an abandoned motor vehicle on the basis of a surety bond.

Where to Apply

To apply for a Georgia title and license plate (tag), submit the following to the Tax Commissioner's office in the county in Georgia where you, the vehicle owner(s), reside.

For business owned and operated vehicles, apply at the Tax Commissioner's office in the county in Georgia where your business is located.

For commercial vehicles that travel in Georgia as well as other states and/or jurisdictions, the vehicle should be registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP) with this Department's IRP Unit. After obtaining a Georgia title (when one is required), contact this Department's IRP Unit of the Motor Vehicle Division for what is needed to register your vehicle in this state under the International Registration Plan (IRP).

What is Needed to Apply

- A completed **MV-1 tag and/or title application** - Typed or printed in blue or black ink, except for the signature(s), electronically or legibly by-hand in the vehicle owner(s)' full legal name(s) and signed. If jointly owned, each owner must sign. For natural persons, enter each owner's valid Georgia driver's license number or Georgia identification card number in the spaces provided. A natural person's full legal name would be his or her complete name as it appears on his or her valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia identification card. [Click here](#) to read this Department's policy regarding identification and applications for tags and/or titles.

If all owners go in person to their County Tax Commissioner's office with their valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia identification card, the required documents and applicable fees and taxes, this application can be completed on-line and printed for your signature(s) and processing.

- A **certified copy of the Court Order** authorizing the sale of this vehicle. Certified copies of court documents must contain the Clerk of the Court's signature and his or her seal or stamp.
- A completed and signed **bill of sale (form T-7)** from the person authorized by the Court to sell this vehicle conveying ownership to the applicant(s) using the applicant(s)' full legal name(s).
- A completed **T-22B Certification of Inspection form** - This form must be typed or printed in blue or black ink, except for the signature, electronically or legibly by-hand and signed. A Georgia law enforcement officer or a Georgia County Tax Commissioner or his or her designee must sign this completed form after making a visual inspection of the vehicle's identification number (VIN) plate (a/k/a serial plate).

Important: Incomplete forms or forms containing alterations will not be accepted!

The VIN on all documents must match the VIN as shown on your vehicle's VIN plate (a/k/a serial plate).

- A **copy of the newspaper advertisement or advertisement posted at the county courthouse** must be submitted when the person authorized by the Court to sell the vehicle and the purchaser are the same person.

[Click here](#) to read the duties of a person removing and/or storing a motor vehicle.

- A signed and notarized **affidavit** must be submitted stating a public sale was held and the purchaser made the highest bid when the person authorized to sell the vehicle and the purchaser are the same person.

- **\$18.00 title fee.**

- **\$10.00 title penalty** is due if the purchaser(s) have failed to apply for a Georgia title (when a title is required) in his and/or her name(s) within ninety-days (90) of the date he and/or she purchased the vehicle.

• **\$10.00 additional title penalty** is due if the purchaser(s) previously applied for a Georgia title in his and/or her name(s) for this vehicle and their application was returned requesting additional action before title issuance and compliance has not been made within sixty-days (60) of the accompanying letter's date.

Pay all fee and taxes due with cash, check or money order payable to the Office of the Tax Commissioner. Some counties accept credit cards.

A Georgia tag will not be issued for a vehicle requiring a Georgia title unless a Georgia title has already been issued for the vehicle in the applicant(s)' name(s) or a title is applied for at the time of registration.

If you are applying for a Georgia title and tag at the same time through your County Tax Commissioner's office, you must also comply with all of the requirements of vehicle registration. [Click here](#) to view what is required to register and obtain a tag for the vehicle.

When a vehicle is no longer an abandoned vehicle, an [MV-603R Notice of Abandoned Vehicle Release](#) form must be completed and forwarded to: Attention: Stop File, Motor Vehicle Division, P. O. Box 740384, Atlanta, Georgia 30374-0384.

Final Disposition of an Abandoned Motor Vehicle

Upon the final disposition of an abandoned motor vehicle, the applicable form listed below should be completed and submitted to the Court of competent jurisdiction. Click on the applicable form number and/or form name below to complete the form on-line for printing, signing and submission.

[MV-603A Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit \(Towing Company or Individual\)](#)

[MV-603I Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit From Insurance Company or Company Storing Vehicle for Insurance Company](#)

[MV-603RF Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit From Repair Facility Storing Vehicle Definitions](#)

Definitions

"Abandoned motor vehicle," means a motor vehicle or trailer:

(A) Which has been left by the owner or some person acting for the owner with an automobile dealer, repairman, or wrecker service for repair or for some other reason and has not been called for by such owner or other person within a period of thirty-days (30) after the time agreed upon; or within thirty-days (30) after such vehicle is turned over to such dealer, repairman, or wrecker service when no time is agreed upon; or within thirty-days (30) after the completion of the necessary repairs;

(B) Which is left unattended on a public street, road, or highway or other public property for a period of at least five-days (5) and when it reasonably appears to a law enforcement officer that the individual who left such motor vehicle unattended does not intend to return and remove such motor vehicle. However, on the state highway system, any law enforcement officer or employee of the Department of Revenue to whom enforcement authority has been designated pursuant to [§32-6-2 of the OCOGA](#) may authorize the immediate removal of vehicles posing a threat to public health or safety or to mitigate congestion,

(C) Which has been lawfully towed onto the property of another at the request of a law enforcement officer and left there for a period of not less than thirty-days (30) without anyone having paid all reasonable current charges for such towing and storage,

(D) Which has been lawfully towed onto the property of another at the request of a property owner on whose property the vehicle was abandoned and left there for a period of not less than thirty-days (30) without anyone having paid all reasonable current charges for such towing and storage; or

(E) Which has been left unattended on private property for a period of not less than thirty-days (30).

"Motor vehicle" or vehicle means a motor vehicle or trailer.

Owner or owners means the registered owner, the owner as recorded on the title, lessor, lessee, security interest holders, and all lien holders as shown on this Department's tag and/or title records.

Public sale means a sale:

1. Held at a place reasonably available to persons who might desire to attend and submit bids; and
2. At which those attending shall be given the opportunity to bid on a competitive basis; and
3. At which the sale, if made, shall be made to the highest bidder; and
4. Except as otherwise provided by law for advertising or dispensing with the advertising of public sales, of which notice is given by advertisement once a week for two (2) weeks in the newspaper in which the sheriff's advertisements are published in the county where the sale is to be held, and which notice shall state the day and hour, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and the place of sale and shall briefly identify the goods to be sold.

[Definitions](#)

- [Local County Tax Commissioner's Office](#)
- [Contacting Motor Vehicle Division](#)

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Motor Vehicle Division

[Registration](#) | [Titles](#) | [Dealer](#) | [Plate Samples](#) | [Insurance](#) | [Forms & Manuals](#) | [Online Options](#)

Is a Georgia Title Required for My Vehicle?

Vehicle Title Required

- 1986 & newer year model motor vehicles
- 1986 & newer travel trailers
- 1986 & newer car/tow dollies weighing 2,001 lbs., or more
- 1986 & newer motorcycles
- 1986 & newer campers
- 1963 & newer mobile homes
- 1963 & newer manufactured homes

Vehicle Title Optional

- You can title a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if you have a title issued in your name.
- You can title a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if the owner on the front of the title has assigned the title to you.
- You can title a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if the owner on the front of the title has assigned the title to a dealer and the dealer has assigned the title to you.
- A title will not be issued for a 1963-1985 year model vehicle if the vehicle has been registered in someone else's name (s) other than the owner(s) shown on the face of the Georgia title.

Vehicle Title Not Required/Not Issued

- 1962 and older year model vehicles
- Agricultural, horticultural or livestock raising vehicles that are not required to be registered
- Airplanes, aircraft
- All terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles
- Boat trailers
- Boats, watercraft
- Buses owned and operated by an urban transit
- Cable cars, trolleys
- Crane
- Driver education vehicles used in public or private
- Fifth wheel
- Homemade car/tow dollies
- Homemade trailers
- Invalid tricycles
- Moped
- Nonresidents' vehicles (vehicles owned by persons who not have a Georgia address)*
- Pole trailers
- Self-propelled wheelchairs
- Tow dollies (car) weighing 2,000 lbs or less
- Trailers weighing 2,000 lbs or less
- Vehicles not manufactured for highway use

*A title may be issued to an out-of-state resident in cases of inheritance or repossession when the vehicle is currently titled in the name of the out-of-state resident. Also, if you have moved out-of-state and your Georgia title is lost, stolen, or mutilated, a replacement title can be issued with your out-of-state address.

Useful Links

- [Local County Tax Commissioner's Office](#)
- [Contacting Motor Vehicle Division](#)

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Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division
Mobile and Area Source Program – I/M Unit
4244 International Parkway, Suite 136, Atlanta, Georgia 30354
Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
(404) 363-7028

October 22, 2004

Dear Towing Company/ Repair Facility Manager:

As you may know, it is a violation of State law to sell a vehicle intended for registration in the 13 county metro Atlanta area without the seller providing a valid passing emission certificate before the sale is complete. The law (O.C.G.A. 12-9-54) does **not** exempt towing companies or mechanics that are selling abandoned vehicles through court-mandated auctions. We have a solution to assist in the sale of these vehicles through these court-mandated auctions/sales.

The emission testing requirements do **NOT** apply to vehicles that are classified as “not intended for highway use”. We require the addition of the verbiage below to the Bill of Sale for any vehicle sold by a towing company through a “court-mandated auction” that **does not** have a passing emission certificate at the time of sale. **Once the sale is complete, the vehicle must be towed off the property where it was sold.** If the vehicle has a passing emission certificate, it is not necessary to add this verbiage to the Bill of Sale.

To check the emissions status of a vehicle, you can visit one of the Waiver Centers operated by Georgia’s Clean Air Force. You can find a list of their locations at the web site: www.cleanairforce.com. GCAF personnel there can check for emission certificates on one to five vehicles at a time. Any more that five typically can be handled within two business days.

With regard to these auctions/sales by towing companies and mechanics, any vehicle sold without a valid passing emission certificate and allowed to be driven (not towed) off the property is a violation of State law. Any such violation will be investigated and could result in criminal prosecution of the seller with possible fines up to \$1000 per sale.

If anyone has a question about this issue, he/she can call our office at 404-363-7028 between 8:00am and 4:30pm weekdays.

Sincerely,



Captain Elysia Greenlee
Criminal Investigator
Environmental Protection Division

FOR THE SALE OF VEHICLES IN THE METRO ATLANTA AREA THROUGH COURT
MANDATED AUCTIONS/SALES, stamp or pre-print the following on the Bill of Sale:

THROUGH THE AUTHORITY OF A COURT-MANDATED AUCTION OR
SALE, THIS VEHICLE IS SOLD AS "NOT FOR HIGHWAY USE". IT IS
UNLAWFUL FOR THIS VEHICLE TO BE DRIVEN ON ANY PUBLIC ROAD.
VEHICLE IS TO BE TOWED OFF PROPERTY AFTER SALE. IF THE
VEHICLE IS EVER INTENDED FOR HIGHWAY USE, IT WILL BE THE
OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GET VEHICLE IN COMPLIANCE WITH
STATE EMISSIONS LAWS.

BUYER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PROCESS

| RESPONSIBILITY | ACTION | TIME PERIOD |
|--|--|--|
| Wrecker Service (If owner unknown) | Requests name and addresses of owners from law enforcement ordering removal | Within 3 business days after removal. |
| Wrecker Service (If owner unknown) | Notifies (in writing) local law enforcement that vehicle removed from private property | Within 3 business days after removal. |
| Law Enforcement (If vehicle stolen) | Notifies Georgia Crime Information Center, GCIC | Within 72 hours after receiving notice of vehicle being stolen. |
| Wrecker Service (If owner unknown) NOTE: To simplify process, the term "wrecker service" has been used to denote the person removing or storing the vehicle. | If vehicle not stolen, notifies owners and any security interest or lien holders. Note: Notification to include location, fees, & that the vehicle will be abandoned in 30 days. Sent by certified or registered mail or statutory overnight delivery. | Within 7 calendar days after vehicle's removal or one (1) business day after information is furnished. |
| Law Enforcement (If vehicle not stolen) | Provides names & addresses of owners to wrecker service if information available. If owner information is not available, advises wrecker service. | Within 3 business days of request. |
| Wrecker Service (If owner does not redeem or vehicle being repaired or being stored by insurance company becomes abandoned. | Notifies DMVS or County Tag Agent on form MV-603 with \$2.00 fee. | Within 7 calendar days of the date the vehicle becomes abandoned. |

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PROCESS
(Continued)

| RESPONSIBILITY | ACTION | TIME PERIOD |
|--|--|---|
| Department of Motor Vehicle Safety or County Tag Agent | Provides a printout of both tag & title information for VIN recorded on fMV-603 form if form properly completed & fees paid. Provides MV-603A & notice to be mailed to the owner(s). Places hold on VIN recorded on MV-603 form. | Every effort will be made to complete request within 7 days of receipt. |
| Wrecker service (Once information received from DMVS or County Tag Agent) | Notifies owner(s), lessor, lessees, security interest and lien holders by certified/registered mail or statutory overnight delivery of vehicle's location, & that vehicle is abandoned & will be disposed of if not redeemed. | Within 5 calendar days. |
| Wrecker Service (If DMVS records have no information regarding owner.) | Advertise in paper of general circulation in county where vehicle obtained OR If no paper at county courthouse. | 1 time a week for 2 consecutive weeks. 2 consecutive weeks |
| DMVS (Notice of abandonment) | Provides information regarding abandoned vehicle to National Crime Information Center | |
| Wrecker Service (After final disposition of vehicle) | Notifies DMVS or County Tag Office by sending applicable copy of MV-603 form | Within 7 days after final disposition of vehicle. |
| Dept. of Motor Vehicle Safety or County Tag Agent | Removes hold from VIN when disposition copy of MV-603 is received. | |

NOTICE OF AN ABANDONED VEHICLE AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Research fee: \$2.00 for printout of tag, title & lien information per abandoned vehicle

I do solemnly swear or affirm that the vehicle described herein is or will become abandoned or a derelict motor vehicle as described in §40-11-1 of the OCGA. As provided in Code Sections §40-11-2 and §40-11-9 of the OCGA, this is to request the names and addresses of all owners, lessors, lessees, security interest holders and lien holders of such vehicle.

I understand that I shall not be entitled to any storage fees if I do not provide the notice and information required by §40-11-2 and §40-11-9 of the OCGA. I also understand that any person who knowingly provides false and misleading information when providing any notice of information as required by §40-11-2 and §40-11-9 of the OCGA shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$1000 or by imprisonment of up to one (1) year.

| | |
|--|---|
| Name of Person Removing or Storing Vehicle | Vehicle Identification Number |
| Street | Year Make Model |
| City State Zip | Tag No. State of Issue Date Vehicle Removed |
| Present Location of Vehicle (Street Address) | Date Vehicle Becomes Abandoned |
| City State Zip | Location Vehicle Removed From |
| Telephone Number (including area code) | City State ZIP |

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, _____
(Day) (Month) (Year)

X _____
(Authorized signature of person removing/storing vehicle)

X _____
(Notary Public's Signature and Seal or Stamp) (Date My Notary Public Commission Expires)

(Notary Public's Georgia Driver's License Number).

Mail the Notice and Request for Motor Vehicle Information (Form MV-603) and fee to the County Tag Agent in the county where the vehicle is stored or to:

ATTN: Research/Abandoned Vehicles
Department of Revenue/Motor Vehicle Division
PO Box 740381
ATLANTA, GA 30374-0381

Except for signatures, this form must be typed, electronically completed & printed or legibly hand printed in black or blue ink.

Abandoned Vehicle Affidavit From Repair Facility Storing Vehicle

State of Georgia
County of _____

I, _____, a duly authorized representative of
(Owner/Representative of Repair Facility)
_____ do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that the vehicle
(Repair Facility)
described as:

(Vehicle Identification Number) (Vehicle Year & Make) (Model Name or Number)

was removed to and/or has been stored at:

(Location)

Said vehicle is now an abandoned vehicle as defined in OCGA §40-11-1 (1) and has not been claimed by the owner, lessor, lessee or any holder of a security interest or lien.

I further solemnly swear or affirm that in following the procedure to foreclose on an abandoned vehicle lien on said vehicle, I have complied with the requirements of OCGA §40-11-2 as evidenced by the following:

1. This vehicle was being repaired by a repair facility as provided in OCGA §40-11-2 (e), but has become abandoned.
2. Within seven (7) calendar days of the day such vehicle became an abandoned motor vehicle, I/we gave notice in writing to the Department of Revenue pursuant to the procedure set forth in OCGA §40-11-2 (e) and requested the name and address of all owners of such vehicle as evidenced by the document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit A."
3. Within five (5) calendar days of having received the information requested, I/we either:
 - a. Notified the owner, or lessee, or any holder of a lien or security interest by certified mail and first class mail; and,
 - b. Placed an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where such vehicle was obtained once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks because the owner could not be ascertained or the certified mail was returned undeliverable; or,
 - c. Placed an advertisement at the county courthouse in such place where other public notices are posted for two (2) consecutive weeks because there is no newspaper in such county.

Pursuant to OCGA §40-11-2 (f), said notice advised the owner(s) of their obligations and rights to redeem such vehicle and such owner, lessee or holder of a lien or security interest has either disclaimed their ownership or interest in such vehicle, as evidenced by the document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference or has failed to redeem such vehicle.
4. I/We have made demand for payment of \$_____, which demand has not been satisfied. More than ten (10) days have elapsed since notification and no petition for a judicial hearing has been made.

Therefore, I/we ask the court to authorize the foreclosure of my/our lien and the sale of this motor vehicle.

(Signature of Owner/Representative of Co. Storing Vehicle)

(Date)

(Address of Company Storing Vehicle)

Sworn and subscribed before me this _____ day of
_____, 20____

(City, State & Zip)

(Notary Public's Signature & Notary Seal or Stamp)

(Telephone Number Including Area Code)

(Date My Notary Commission Expires)

State of Georgia
County of _____

ABANDONED VEHICLE AFFIDAVIT

I, _____, do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that the vehicle
(Owner/Representative of Towing Company)
described as: _____ that
(Vehicle Identification Number) (Vehicle Year) (Make) (Model)

was removed to and/or has been stored at: _____
(Location)

is an abandoned vehicle as defined in OCGA §40-11-1 (1), and has not been claimed by the owner, lessor, lessee or any holder of a security interest or lien.

I hereby further solemnly swear or affirm that in following the procedure to foreclose on an abandoned vehicle lien on said vehicle, I have complied with the requirements of OCGA §40-11-2 as evidenced by the following:

1. Within three (3) days of the removal or storage of said vehicle, I obtained the identity and address of all known owners of such vehicle from the law enforcement officer requesting removal of the vehicle or from a local law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which my business is located as evidenced by document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit A"; and,
2. Using the information contained in Exhibit A, I notified or attempted to notify the owner, lessor, lessee, or any holder of a lien or security interest of said vehicle that said vehicle would be deemed abandoned at the expiration of thirty-days (30) as evidenced by the document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit B"; and,
3. On or after the thirty-first day following the removal or storage of said vehicle without said vehicle having been redeemed, I gave notice in writing to the Department of Revenue or applicable County Tag Agent (hereinafter referred to as the "Department") pursuant to the procedure set forth in OCGA §40-11-2 (e) and requested the name and address of all owners of such vehicle as evidenced by the document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit C"; and,
4. Within five (5) calendar days of having received the information requested in Exhibit C, I either:
 - A. Notified the owner, any lessee, and any holder of a lien or security interest by certified mail and first class mail; or,
 - B. Placed an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where such vehicle was obtained once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks; or,
 - C. Placed an advertisement at the county courthouse in such place where other public notices are posted for two (2) consecutive weeks;
5. Advised the owner(s) of their obligations and rights to redeem such vehicle and such owner, lessee or holder of a lien or security interest disclaimed their ownership or interest in such vehicle as evidenced by the document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit D"; and,
6. I have made a demand for payment of \$ _____, which has been made without satisfaction, as evidenced by the document(s) attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit E", without a timely filing of a petition for a judicial hearing and/or the identity of the owner cannot be ascertained.

Therefore, I am asking a court of competent jurisdiction to authorize the foreclosure of my lien and the sale of this motor vehicle.

(Signature of Owner/Representative of Towing Company)

(Date)

(Address of Towing Company)

Sworn and Subscribed before me this: _____
(Day)

(City, State, Zip & County)

Day of _____, 20____
(Month) (Year)

(Telephone Number Including Area Code)

(Notary Public's Signature & Notary Seal or Stamp)

(Date My Notary Commission Expires)